



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

January – February 2005

Vol 19 No 1

A Happy New Year!

From the President

A happy and healthy New Year to you all. They say the first year is the hardest and our Committee and I have learnt a lot. We had a couple of hiccups but were quietly reminded and measures will be installed to avoid same.

I have been asked to stand again as your President and I will with your acceptance. I will leave the bulk of my year in review until the AGM.

Our Past President Bob Pearce has accepted an assignment in China. He will be missed as our Head Director. Best wishes Bob to you and Ann. It will be a great adventure and as they say, travel is worth a thousand books.

Jan, my other half, had her 60th birthday and the immediate family gathered and celebrated at the Hyatt Coolum for 8 days where Jan was pampered to the hilt by our children. After 40 years Jan is more than a wife, she is my love and mate.

Whilst we all celebrated Christmas with our families and over indulged in all that's good, the earth shook and nature reminded us that she is the master. As I said at the club, imagine 2 MCG crowds totaling 160,000 living souls smitten in a

way that defies imagination. The ballot/suggestion box is being used for donations and you are invited to contribute. There is also a Charity Day at QCBC on 16th January – notice on board. I will also ask the Committee to meet dollar for dollar. Let's show that we are more than a friendly club but also we care for mankind.

Until the AGM - my thanks in advance.

Bridge is but a game.

Neil Hamilton



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
9:00AM - TUESDAY
15 FEBRUARY 2004

© Important Phone Numbers ©

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Club Events – Winners 2004

Event	Gross Winners	Handicap Winners
Tuesday Teams	Gary Mitchell/Judy Mitchell Geoff Gulley/Anne Gulley	Margaret Welldon/Val Cran Frank Hoult/Fred Hoult
Wednesday Teams	Gary Lynch/Joyce Rosser Jenny Lewis/Pam Horton	Alex Croot/Claire Ponting Gary Cran/Barbara Hopley
Friday Pairs	Helen & Richard McLauchlan	John Martin/Arthur Pomery
Monday Pairs	Margaret Welldon/Richard McLauchlan	Anne Gulley/Irena Hall
Tuesday Pairs	Helen & Richard McLauchlan	Robert & Rosemary Matthew
Wednesday Pairs	Ailsa Smith/Don Cutmore	Gordon & Ian Broadley
Club Championship Teams	Richard McLauchlan/Bob Pearce Helen McLauchlan/Margaret Welldon	
GNOT Arana Club Heat Winners	Richard McLauchlan/Peter Gill Helen McLauchlan/Margaret Welldon	
Forest Place Pairs (5th April)	NS: Gary Mitchell/Judy Mitchell EW: Jenny Lewis/Ailsa Smith	
Forest Place Pairs (24th August)	NS: Don Cutmore/Ailsa Smith EW: Julie Cutmore/Yvonne Auer	
Club Championship Pairs		
Open	Helen & Richard McLauchlan	
Restricted	Vonnie Wallace & Tony Agar	
Novice	Peter van Eden/Ron Weinert	

Congratulations to all winners. It was great to see some newer players on the winning list. The presentation of prizes was made at the Club's Christmas Party on 11th December 2004.



Our guest book reviewer this
edition is Vonnie Wallace

“The Principals of Card Play”
by Victor Mollo & Nico Halloran

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

All you masochistic Bridge players who are struggling to find the key to open the box of tricks on how to play a Bridge hand : have I got news for you. Just go to our ever-expanding Library and take out "**The Principals of Card Play**". The author has to be the most concise Bridge writer I have read, and this book is a "must-read" for players wanting more experience at the Bridge table.

Step by step, the author will ask you questions and give you the basic simple answers.

The book is in three sections – starting with **No-Trumps** – how to count tricks, how to establish a suit, hold-up play and how to make your contract. Wow!

The second section is **Play in a Suit Contract** – drawing trumps, discarding losers, retaining entries and setting up side-suits.

The third section is on **Defence** – what card to lead, second and third hand play and discards. He makes you wonder why you ever thought it was difficult.

Have fun!

Vonnie Wallace

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Life is what happens whilst we are planning
other things.

Judith Homan



LIBRARY LINES

Librarians Jan Rae & Kath Rooney

Visit the Library and borrow some books or videos. A full series of Klinger videos are now available.

To date **\$1,301.45** has been donated to the Library as proceeds from the **Bring & Buy Table**. Many thanks to Ann Gulley for this innovative idea and for her supervision of the Table which in turn has given members the access to a wide range of material.

Our Librarians have asked that members be reminded that there are two boxes of index cards for borrowing. One box contains cards for the books and the other box contains cards for the videos. Please ensure that you use the correct cards otherwise it can cause confusion.

If you require assistance, see either Jan or Kath, or in their absence, one of the Committee members who will be only too pleased to assist. A copy of the borrowing procedures is pinned inside the Library cupboard for ease of reference.

Following the Seminar on Thursday 30/12/2004 Paul Lavings donated the following books to the Club Library:

Bridge Master – the Best of Edgar Kaplan

from The Bridge World

Monster Book of Basic Declarer Play

by D Huggett & S Cashmore

The New York Times Bridge Book

by A & D Truscott

Our thanks to **Allan Box** who has put together binders with ABF Newsletters from January 1994 to December 1997 and QBA Bulletins from January 1996 to December 2002, and donated these to the Library.

Happy browsing

Saturday Afternoon Bridge

..... has recommenced. What a great way to spend those hot summer Saturday afternoons in the cool of our Club rooms surrounded by friends.

As only a few players were able to come on the first Saturday of 2005, a game of Hearts was played. Now, I am led to believe that after a few hands one of our Librarians (KR) really got into the swing of it and became rather astute at the game. Maybe we could start a Hearts Club with KR as Chief Tutor.

FUNNY FACTS

- ♣ An octopus has three hearts.
- ♣ An albatross can fly, without flapping its wings, for days on end.
- ♣ The ordinary housefly beats its wings nearly 200 times a second.

Arana Winners

Toowong Novice Teams: 5th December 2004

George Macionis & Andrew Guminski teaming with 2 ladies from QCBC were the winners of this event. Equal 2nd place was taken by the Arana team of Peggy Whittaker, Peter van Eden and Robert & Rosemary Matthew.

Queensland Wide Pairs - 2004

Arana players' best performances:

			Open
3 rd	N/S	66.35%	H McLauchlan – M Weldon
9 th	E/W	61.77%	R McLauchlan – B Pearce
			< 150 Masterpoints
2 nd	N/S	61.12%	A Norman – B Quine
8 th	N/S	57.82%	R Matthew & R Matthew
			< 50 Masterpoints
5 th	N/S	56.97%	C Noakes – M Perrin
7 th	N/S	56.06%	A Croot – C Ponting

Summer Festival of Bridge

- Canberra (11th – 24th January 2005)

Richard & Helen McLauchlan, Barry Mitchell & Liz Marshall will be teaming up to play in the Open Swiss Teams event in this Festival of Bridge. (Helen is hoping to bring back some interesting hands for us to try.) Our best wishes for success.

QBA Gold Coast Congress

(19th – 26th February)

A number of Arana members will again make the annual trek to the Gold Coast in February for this Congress. We wish you all well, and may the cards be kind to you.

2004 Trivia from the Scorer

CONSIDERING only the weekly pairs events (exclude all teams, congresses and the Sunday pairs championship), do you know –

- a) Which pair played the most number of sessions
- b) Which pair recorded the highest score at a single session
- c) Which pair recorded the highest average score (same partner, minimum 10 sessions)
- d) Which individual played the most number of sessions (all partners)
- e) Which individual recorded the highest average score (all partners, minimum 10 sessions)?

Richard McLauchlan (Scorer)

Answers: Page 7

Happiness

Bridge is a game that's played by some
Who do enjoy some harmless fun;
And others have the intention
To show off some new convention
But all would like to get the hand
To bid and made a slam that's grand
And when it's doubled, Oh what bliss
It is to scribe a double kiss.

Rab Wright

Mississippi Gambling 😊😊

Whilst cruising the Hawaiian Islands recently on board the “Norwegian Wind”, Gabby & Agnes Boross met Marty Finven. Marty has directed bridge tournaments in New York and gives bridge lectures on cruises. Marty gave Gabby this interesting hand to ponder.

Suggested Bidding

West	North	East	South
Pass	7♥	Double	All Pass

Dealer: West	♠ A K Q		
	♥ A K Q J 10 9		
	♦ --		
	♣ A K Q J		
♠ J 9 8 7 6		♠ --	
♥ --		♥ 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	
♦ 8 7 6		♦ A K Q J 10 9	
♣ 10 9 8 7 6		♣ --	
	♠ 10 5 4 3 2		
	♥ --		
	♦ 5 4 3 2		
	♣ 5 4 3 2		

Opening Lead: ♦A by East

Suggested Auction

When things look too good to be true, they usually are. If you ever pick up a hand like that held by North you should probably be suspicious... especially after you have read the story about the hand. Still, if you were dealt this hand you'd probably expect to take all the tricks with hearts as the trump suit, even if partner has nothing. Open with what you think you can make, a grand slam in hearts. If you are a duplicate player, you might want to take your time and open with a strong two-bid. If partner has the ♦A you would want to reach the slightly higher scoring contract of 7NT.

As North, you might be surprised to hear East double your 7♥ contract. Perhaps East has the ♦A and is expecting to take a trick with it. You might even redouble.

East will be quite surprised to hear North bid a grand slam in hearts. The astonishment shouldn't prevent East from making a penalty double, since East knows the heart suit is breaking badly for declarer... very badly. If that wasn't the case, of course, there would be no story behind the hand.

Suggested Opening Lead

East has an easy choice of leads against a heart contract. East would start with the ♦A not caring too much whether or not it wins a trick.

Play of the Hand

As you are likely to have discovered by now, if you played the hand, it is a disaster for North-South. In a heart contract, North can take no more than six tricks. East keeps leading diamonds at every opportunity and North never gets a trick with any of the high cards in spades or clubs.

In fact, North-South can't make even a game contract. Seeing all the hands the best the partnership can do is make a contract of 3♠ or 4♣. Not what one would expect with all those high cards.

Defence

There's nothing that needs to be said on the defenders' behalf. Before congratulating each other on the large penalty they are likely to collect, perhaps it's time for the complete story ...

The Story Behind the Hand

This is the notorious 'Mississippi Heart Hand' and it dates from the days of whist. An equivalent version was published by Edmond Hoyle of 'According to Hoyle' fame – in 1747 and the modern version was published in 1804 by Thomas Matthews.

The hand was well known among Mississippi river boat gamblers during the Civil War period. They would try to convince an unsuspecting North to make a heavy bet on taking at least seven tricks with hearts as trumps. Of course, the hand is specially set up so that North can never make more than six tricks with hearts as trumps.

The hand was popular with the professional cheaters in the days of bridge whist when there was no limit to the number of times a player could double or redouble. Even in a low-stake game, the doubling and redoubling could lead to an enormous sum being wagered on whether North could take a seventh trick. It's rumored that Charles Schwab, a wealthy financier and the president of the New York Whist club, was duped out of \$10,000 on this hand.

The hand is another illustration of the tremendous effect that distribution can play in the outcome of a hand. When you are looking at a good hand and everyone else at the table is bidding up a storm, it's probably because the distribution is wild. Don't be too shy about bidding more when you hold a very distributional hand, and don't be too quick to double the opponents on high cards alone. Most importantly, be cautious when you are offered that 'sure' bet... especially if you're on a riverboat steaming along the Mississippi!

New Handicap System

WE have changed the current handicap system but the new version is still based on master point rankings. The new handicaps are –

Nil.....	75	State *.....	60
Graduate	72	National	58
Club	70	National *	57
Local.....	68	National **	56
Local *.....	67	Life	54
Local **	66	Bronze Life.....	53
Regional.....	64	Silver Life.....	52
Regional *.....	63	Gold Life	51
State.....	61	Grand.....	50
Inactive, or no ABF number..... 50			

Note that the scale now runs from Nil to Grand Master. Every time you gain a MP promotion, you lose 1%. If you go up a division (eg, from Local to Regional), you lose an extra 1%.

The new system is not expected to be perfect but should be an improvement on the previous version. Improvers lose handicap more quickly and the better players (especially Life and upwards should find it harder to win on handicap).

The new system will be used for the first quarter of 2005, but we are investigating other scoring programs which calculate handicaps based on current performance rather than MP rank.

Richard McLauchlan (Scorer)

Masterpoint Movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the month of November & December 2004:

Graduate Master

Lorraine Connolly David Lehmann

Club Master

Michael Staley Mary Staley

Local Master

Frances Orford Murray Perrin

***Local Master**

Beryl Bell

****Local Master**

Andrew Guminski

Regional Master

Caroline Black

***Regional Master**

Pearl Cowie

***State Master**

Philip Smith

Helen McLauchlan (MP Secretary)

Short Bridge Puzzles



Answers: Page 7

1. Zero HCP

What is the *most tricks* declarer could win against best defense with no HCP in either hand?

2. Fewest HCP

What is the *fewest* number of HCP a partnership may hold and be able to make: (A) a grand slam, (B) a small slam, (C) 11 tricks?

Law 74 – Conduct and Etiquette

(The Laws of duplicate Contract Bridge 1997)

A. Proper Attitude

1. Courtesy:

A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.

2. Etiquette of word and action:

A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player, or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

3. Conformity to correct procedure:

Every player should follow uniform and correct procedure in calling and playing.

B. Etiquette

As a matter of courtesy, a player should refrain from:

1. Paying insufficient attention to the game.
2. Making gratuitous comments during the auction and play.
3. Detaching a card before it is his turn to play.
4. Prolonging play unnecessarily (as in playing on although he knows that all tricks are surely his) for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
5. Summoning and addressing the director in a manner discourteous to him or other contestants.



The Director's Chair

You peng zi yuan fang lai, bu yi le hu!
(To have friends coming in from afar, how delightful!)

有朋自远方来，不亦乐乎！

For those who don't already know, I will be teaching in China for at least the next 9 months. Hence this will be my last 'Director's Chair' article. When (if?) Ann and I return, we intend to move to our unit at Caloundra so will not be playing regularly at the Club anymore though we hope to have the occasional game when in Brisbane.

Ann and I started learning bridge with Judy (Valentine) in the late 80's. She managed to impress on us the notion that bridge is only a game and that enjoyment is the aim. Judy herself gave up on top-level competitive bridge partly because there were too many players who had forgotten that simple point.

Which brings me to say that we must never forget that when playing at the bridge table. How we treat our partners and our opponents reflects on us as bridge players. Surely, the important thing is that we go with the intention of making sure they have an enjoyable session of bridge (notwithstanding the cards!) We will have quickly forgotten the bad cards but bad manners at the table remain in our memories for much longer.

For those with the inclination please consider learning to be a director. As the Club expands so does the need for more directors. Whilst it may seem daunting at first, the basic ideas of how to organise a movement and to apply rulings to the most frequent kinds of errors can be soon learnt. Also, there are always other experienced directors to help.

I wish the club success and prosperity in the future. I don't know much about the bridge scene in China but you can be sure Ann and I will be endeavouring to find a game somewhere or to begin tutorials with other 'ex-pats' as quickly as possible.

潘褒白

Best wishes for 2005

Bob Pearce

Arana Contract Bridge Club

Trivia from the Scorer page 4 Answers

a) Most sessions - Pairs

Robert & Rosemary Matthew	116
Pearl & Ray Cowie	97
John & Patricia Andrew	97

b) Best pairs scores – Single session

Barry Mitchell & Betty Willson	76.8
Helen & Richard McLauchlan	75.0
Barbara Hopley & Gary Cran	74.2

c) Best pairs average scores – 10 session min.

Barry Mitchell & Betty Willson	61.3
Helen & Richard McLauchlan	61.2
Gary Mitchell & Geoffrey Gulley	60.3

d) Most sessions – Individuals

Val Cran	189
Ray Cowie	178
Joyce Rosser	165

e) Best individual average scores – 10 session min.

Richard McLauchlan	58.8
Peter Gill	58.4
Kent Taylor	58.0

And just for the hell of it, there were 10 unresolved NO NAMES (5 NS, 5 EW); 13,878 players; 6,939 pairs; 3,469½ tables.



Short Bridge Puzzles p6 Answers

1. Answer

Dummy holds ♠ 5-4-3-2 ♥ — ♦ 9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2 ♣ 2, declarer has ♠ 10-9-8-7-6 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3, one defender has ♠ Q-J ♥ A-K-Q-J-10-9 ♦ Q-J-10 ♣ Q-J, and the other ♠ A-K ♥ 8-7-6-5-4-3-2 ♦ A-K ♣ A-K. In spades, 10 tricks cannot be stopped with any defense. Curiously, with a heart lead you can even win 11. A cold game with no points! That's scary.

2. Answer

(A) 5. Assume declarer has: ♠ A-J-10-9-8-7 ♥ 8-7-6-5-4-3-2, and dummy has: ♠ 6-5-4-3-2 ♦ 5-4-3-2 ♣ 5-4-3-2. Spades split 1-1 and hearts 3-3, so the heart suit is easily established.

(B) 3. Like above but change declarer's spades to Q-J-10-9-8-7.

(C) 1. Assume declarer has: ♠ J-10-9-8-7-6 ♥ 8-7-6-5-4-3-2, and dummy has: ♠ 5-4-3-2 ♦ 5-4-3-2 ♣ 6-5-4-3-2. Opponents' spades are a singleton ace opposite K-Q, and hearts split 3-3.

Important Dates

January

Dec 29 - 31	Brisbane Festival of Bridge
Sat 1	1-3 Tablelands pairs & teams
Sun 9	Gold Coast Club swiss teams
Tue 11	11-24 Summer Festival (Canberra)
Mon 17	PM Red points
Fri 21	21-23 Townsville Australia Day pairs
Sun 23	Northern Suburbs Swiss teams
Wed 26	Townsville Australia Day Teams
Sat 29	Qld Seniors' teams (Sunshine Coast)
Sun 30	

February

Sun 6	Toowong swiss pairs
Sun 13	Warwick Swiss pairs
	QCBC novice teams (<100 MPs)
	Cairns Novice Pairs (<100 MPs)
Tue 15	Arana Annual General Meeting
Sat 19	19-26 QBA Gold Coast congress
	Carinya welcome walk-in pairs 7.00 pm
Wed 23	QBA walk-in pairs 9.00 am
Sat 26	ANA Shield walk-in pairs 9.00 am

Visitors/Guests to Arana

Members are asked to ensure that their guests sign the Visitors' Book, enter their ABF number clearly underneath their name on the travelling scorecard, and advise the director that a visitor is in attendance. If you see someone you think may be a visitor, introduce yourself and then introduce them to the director.

Copy Deadline

For March - April Issue
25 February 2005

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Queensland Government

Getting more people
active through sport
and recreation

The **Queensland Government** provided \$263,900 to the Arana Contract Bridge Club for the development of the Ferny Grove Sports and Recreation Centre to get more Queenslanders active through sport and recreation.



Mitchell Brandtman

Quantity Surveyors & Construction Cost Managers

*....is pleased to be involved in the
development of the*

Ferny Grove Bridge Club

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